

b) Amendments to the Claims

Claim 17 is currently amended. A detailed listing of all the claims that are or were in the application follows.

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled)

--17. (Currently Amended) An excimer laser comprising: a gas supply structure including a first port serving as a first fluid inlet and a second fluid outlet, a second port serving as a second fluid inlet and a first fluid outlet and a throat portion provided between the first and second ports, wherein the first and second ports are symmetric with respect to the throat portion as a center;

a gas supplier capable of supplying a laser gas into the gas supply structure in two directions such that a flow speed of the laser gas supplied in either of said two directions is less than a speed of second sound at the throat portion; and

a waveguide unit having a plurality of slots, for guiding microwaves into the gas supply structure through the plurality of slots, to excite the laser gas.

18. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 17, further comprising a circulation system for circulating said laser gas flowing out of one of said fluid outlets, into the other of said fluid inlets.

19. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 17, wherein said gas supply path structure being arranged so that a ratio of a pressure at one of

said fluid inlets to a pressure at the other of said fluid outlets is not less than a ratio of critical pressures.

20. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 17, wherein said laser gas is an excimer laser gas which is a mixture of F<sub>2</sub> gas with at least one inert gas selected from Kr, Ar, Ne, and He.

21. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 17, wherein said gas supply path structure for supplying said laser gas, said gas supply path structure being a structure without an inflection point.

22. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 17, wherein further comprising at least one pressure correcting means for correcting a pressure at said first port or at said second port.

23. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 17, further comprising at least one temperature correcting means for correcting a temperature at said first port or at said second port.

24. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 23, wherein said temperature correcting means has a cooling function and wherein said cooling is effected near said port acting as said fluid outlet.

25. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 17, wherein said gas supply path structure further comprising vertical width adjusting means for adjusting a vertical width of said throat portion.

26. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 18, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one bellows pump.

27. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 18, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one circulating pump.

28. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 18, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one blower.

29. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 18, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one fan.

30. (Previously Presented) An excimer laser comprising: a gas supply path structure group including a first port serving as a first fluid inlet and a second fluid outlet, a second port serving as a second fluid inlet and a first fluid outlet and a throat portion provided between the first and second ports, wherein the first and second ports are symmetric with respect to the throat portion as a center; a gas supplier capable of supplying a laser gas to the first or second fluid inlet; and

a waveguide unit having a plurality of slots, for guiding microwaves into the gas supply path structure group through the plurality of slots, to excite the laser gas wherein said gas supply path structure group includes a light emitting portion for generating a laser beam, and the flow speed of said laser gas at said light emitting portion is higher than a speed of sound.

31. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 30, further comprising a circulation system for circulating said laser gas flowing out of said port acting as a fluid outlet of said gas supply path structure group, into said port acting as a fluid inlet of said gas supply path structure group.

32. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 30, wherein said laser gas is an excimer laser gas which is a mixture of  $F_2$  gas with at least one inert gas selected from Kr, Ar, Ne, and He.

33. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 30, wherein said gas supply path structure group being a structure without an inflection point.

34. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 30, further comprising at least one pressure correcting means for correcting a pressure at said port acting as a fluid inlet of said gas supply path structure group or at said port acting as a fluid outlet of said gas supply path structure group.

35. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 30, further comprising at least one temperature correcting means for correcting a temperature at said port acting as a fluid inlet of said gas supply path structure group or at said port acting as a fluid outlet of said gas supply path structure group.

36. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 30, further comprising vertical width adjusting means for adjusting a vertical width of said throat portion.

37. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 31, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one bellows pump.

38. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 31, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one circulating pump.

39. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 31, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one blower.

40. (Previously Presented) The excimer laser according to claim 31, wherein said circulation system is comprised of at least one fan.--

Claims 41-44 (Cancelled)